

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 15-20 and 26 are pending in the present application. Claims 15 and 26 are the independent claims.

Claims 1-14 and 21-25 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 15 has been amended. Claim 26 is newly-presented. No new matter has been added.

Claims 15, 17, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 4,154,003 (Müller). Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Müller in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,730 (Matsumoto et al). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Müller in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,274,807 (Czech). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 15 recites features of a washing machine including at least a pair of air guides including a first air guide and a second air guide which are longitudinally arranged in a condensing duct so as to partition the inner space of the condensing duct into a first condensing path, a second condensing path, and a third condensing path, the first and third condensing paths in communication with each other through the second condensing path and that air in the first condensing path travels in a first vertical direction, air in the second condensing path travels in a second vertical direction opposite the first vertical direction, and air traveling in the third condensing path travels in the first vertical direction.

Newly-presented independent claim 26 recites features of drying apparatus for a washing machine, including at least a pair of air guides including a first air guide and a second air guide which are longitudinally arranged in a condensing duct so as to partition the inner space of the condensing duct into a first condensing path, a second condensing path, and a third condensing path, the first and third condensing paths in communication with each other through the second condensing path and that air in the first condensing path travels in a first vertical direction, air in the second condensing path travels in a second vertical direction opposite the first vertical direction, and air traveling in the third condensing path travels in the first vertical direction.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the citations of record teaches at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 15 and 26 for at least the reasons

discussed during the personal interview of August 31, 2005.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejections of claims 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Matsumoto et al. relates to a drum type washing machine and dryer while Czech relates to a dry cleaning machine. Matsumoto et al. is cited for its alleged teaching of an ultrasonic atomizing unit while Czech is cited for its alleged teaching of vapor absorption. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Matsumoto et al. nor Czech add anything to the teachings of Müller to remedy the aforementioned deficiency.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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